

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE PLASKAS
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVER-
SITY HALL OF FAME

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe Plaskas on his upcoming induction into the Northern Illinois University Hall of Fame on October 14, 2005.

A native of Oswego, Illinois, Joe started his athletic career at Oswego High School as a 3-year letter winner in both football and baseball. Joe's love for sports continued after his playing years as a long-time football and baseball coach at Barrington High School in Barrington, Illinois. Through coaching, Joe was able to instill the same values of hard work, dedication and discipline he displayed to the many students he guided as a teacher and coach.

During his college career at Northern Illinois University (NIU), Joe earned eight letters as an outstanding two sport athlete in football and baseball, earning First-Team All-Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IAC) honors in both sports.

As a fullback at NIU, Joe powered his way through defenses, leading the Huskies in rushing in the 1958 and 1959 campaigns. In his final season, Joe helped lead the Huskies to a 7-2 record and second place finish in the IAC, earning National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-America Honorable Mention and First-Team All-IAC honors. He also earned a place on the Fourth-Team Peoria Journal Star All-State team in 1959.

Currently ranked No. 22 on the all-time NIU rushing list with 1,315 career yards, Joe not only rewrote school records set by Hall of Famers before him, but held that standard for five more seasons until 1964.

On the diamond, Joe performed with equal passion and excellence. At the plate, Joe led the league in batting with a .455 average as a sophomore and won First-Team All-IAC honors as a pitcher.

Once again, congratulations Joe on your many successes on and off the field.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING MEXICO'S
ISSUANCE OF OFFENSIVE
STAMPS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in the Mexican Government for their decision to issue the Memin Pinguin

stamp. This stamp represents the negative stereotypes and oppression that millions of African Americans have spent so many years fighting against.

President Fox stated that this is an internal issue for Mexico and that Americans cannot understand the cultural representation of this character. However, if this is how President Fox chooses to depict the black population, this is a sad commentary for Mexico.

This is the first black representative to be on a Mexican stamp; and instead of selecting an actual black Mexican that has had historical impact in that country, Mexico chose a cartoon character that's an offensive stereotype.

This move is especially disappointing based on the commitment President Fox has given to anti-discrimination. This stamp is the type of depiction that sets back that movement and perpetuates racial biases that many Mexicans deal with daily. I cannot see how this positively benefits any black Mexican.

The U.S. and Mexico must work together to create mutually beneficial policies. I'm afraid that this stamp may set us back in creating an open dialogue between our two nations. While we are separate countries our paths are intertwined. This stamp is not only insulting to African Americans, but to all Americans who find this type of representation abhorrent. In the name of diplomatic relations, I respectfully ask President Fox to reconsider his decision to distribute these stamps.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE
SPARLING

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gene Sparling of Garland County, Arkansas, who recently rediscovered the ivory-billed woodpecker in the Big Woods area of Arkansas. North America's largest woodpecker, often called the "Lord God Bird," was last spotted in 1944 and thought to be extinct.

Mr. Sparling has sought out wild and natural wonders throughout his life, exploring Mexico's Baja Peninsula, the Rocky Mountains, and Arkansas's own Ozark and Ouachita Mountains. In 2003, Mr. Sparling began exploring Big Woods of Arkansas through the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge by way of kayak and observed the ivory-billed woodpecker.

Since the search began in March 2004, there have been over a dozen sightings of the ivory-billed woodpecker by experts in the Big Woods of Arkansas's Mississippi Delta. The ivory-billed woodpecker, valued for its plumage and sought after by American Indians as magical, has birdwatchers and environmentalists around the world rejoicing.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Sparling, and extend my sincere gratitude for his incredible discovery of the once thought extinct ivory-billed woodpecker. Mr. Sparling is an inspira-

tion to us all, and I consider it a privilege to serve as his United States Congressman in the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington, DC, in time for votes on Monday, July 11, due to official congressional business in Texas. I testified yesterday, before the Base Realignment and Closure, BRAC, Commission meeting in San Antonio in support of Dyess Air Force Base which is located in my congressional district. As a result, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on both votes:

Rollcall vote No. 363: H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; and

Rollcall vote No. 364: H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for both.

REAR ADMIRAL DENNIS DWYER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Rear Admiral Dennis Dwyer, who hails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Admiral Dwyer has served with considerable distinction and dedication for the past 32 years, and I would like to thank him for his service and many contributions to the defense of our great Nation.

On July 29th, RADM Dwyer will retire from the Navy after 32 years of active duty, and will leave command of the Navy's Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers here in Washington, DC.

During his tenure as Commander of the Navy's Aircraft Carrier Programs, Admiral

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Dwyer was responsible for the delivery of the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76), the complex nuclear refueling overhaul on USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and the development of the "6 plus 2" aircraft carrier surge plan now considered the centerpiece and backbone of the U.S. Navy's Strike Warfare Operations Plan.

As Life Cycle Manager for the entire Carrier Fleet, Rear Admiral Dwyer significantly increased the material readiness of the Force. In 2003, as a result of this increased posture, the United States was able to surge eight aircraft carriers, on short notice, to conduct combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, the Fleet was again able to simultaneously surge seven aircraft carriers world-wide for Exercise Summer Pulse, once again demonstrating the Navy's ability to execute the new Fleet Response Plan engagement strategy. This high state of combat readiness would not have been possible without Rear Admiral Dwyer's improvisation of a brilliant Class Action Maintenance Plan.

However, his most enduring legacy will certainly be the strategic vision and hands-on leadership he provided throughout the concept and detailed design process of the CVN-21 Class of Future Aircraft Carriers. This new class of ships was developed utilizing revolutionary aircraft carrier designs and advanced computer modeling techniques. He relentlessly drove future technologies forward, established and led the largest government and industry ship design team ever assembled, and created a world class modeling environment that significantly reduced design costs throughout the life cycle of this next generation of Aircraft Carriers.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to offer my personal gratitude to Admiral Dwyer and his wife Eva for their honorable and faithful service to our Nation, and I urge my fellow Colleagues to wish them continued success and the traditional Naval blessing of "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he closes out a very distinguished military career.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JOHN W.
PARKERSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of John W. Parkerson, who passed away at the age of 59 in Hot Springs, Arkansas on April 21, 2005. John was born on October 18, 1945 in Paragould, Arkansas, in the hills of Greene County. John distinguished himself as a husband, father, grandfather, lawyer, and legislator.

A graduate of Hot Springs High School, John considered Hot Springs home and was driven by the ideal of improving the lives of the citizens of Garland County. After graduating from Hendrix College, John attended the University of Arkansas Law School and graduated in 1971. John was extremely active in the Hot Springs community, including the Arkansas Bar Association, the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation Board, Abilities Unlimited, and the Hot Springs Rotary Club. Additionally, he became the first Garland

County Small Claims Court Judge and was a member of the Garland County Community College Board of Trustees.

John spent 12 years in the Arkansas Legislature and once ran for the United States House of Representatives, commenting the best part of politics was the people it gave you the opportunity to meet. John led a life of public service and dedication in every endeavor he undertook and will always be remembered for his tremendous devotion to Arkansas.

John truly led an exemplary life. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife Sanda, his son Christopher Parkerson and daughter-in-law Kim, and son Ben Parkerson, and his grandchildren.

ON THE PASSING OF CLIFFORD W.
BARNHART

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Clifford W. Barnhart. Mr. Barnhart had a tremendous impact in my district over his tenure as editor of the Pensacola News Journal and as an appointed Escambia County Commissioner.

A native of New Alexandria, PA who began his career in Pittsburgh, he was already a seasoned newspaper man when he arrived in Pensacola. Not only was he respected for his business acumen, but he was also admired for his service to community, whether in the form of supporting local sporting events for youngsters or making sure that readers were always well informed. When Hurricane Frederic, a dangerous Category 3 storm hit the Gulf Coast in 1979, Mr. Barnhart managed to get the paper on the street the very next morning.

When Governor Jeb Bush needed to replace four elected county commissioners who had been removed from office because of scandal, Mr. Barnhart was one of the people that he knew could be trusted to restore integrity to the position. Even though he had been retired from the Pensacola News Journal for 18 years, Mr. Barnhart gladly stepped forward to serve his community.

My prayers go out to Clifford's wife Zee, his son Scott Barnhart, his daughters Bonnie Mae Barnhart and Sue Glenn, and all others who mourn the loss of this great man. He loved his family as they loved him, and his loss will have a vast impact on so many.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Clifford Barnhart from this world, and his family is in my thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of June 16, 2005 the House voted on an amendment to H.R. 2862, the Fiscal 2006 Commerce-Justice-Science Appro-

priations Act. On House rollcall vote #261, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005 I was unable to vote on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 168, Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights (rollcall 363); and H. Res. 333, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan (rollcall 364). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF DANIEL
R. KINLEY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Daniel R. Kinley who passed away at the age of 46 on June 12, 2005, in Chicot County, Arkansas. Danny was born on March 14, 1959, in Wichita, Kansas. Danny distinguished himself as a terrific father, loving husband, and community hero.

Danny, a member of Parkview Baptist Church, was a firefighter for the El Dorado Fire Department for 11 years, eventually earning the distinguished rank of Captain. Day after day, Danny risked his life in the pursuit of saving others. There is no greater civil service, no job more commendable than that of a firefighter.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Danny's family. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Leslie; their son Braxton; their daughters Heather and Devan; mother and stepfather Maureen and Fred Buchanan; his brother Bryan Taylor of Little Rock; and his two sisters Karen and Tanya.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY
SCHOOL BUS ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues in introducing the Healthy School Bus Act, which calls attention to a serious but overlooked health threat that our children face every day that they ride to school in a bus.

Congress passed the Clean Air Act and subsequent amendments because we recognized the tremendous health risks of breathing polluted air. Children are particularly at risk because their lungs are still developing and

they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults do. Nearly 4.5 million American children suffer from asthma, and air pollution is believed to be a serious contributing factor in asthma attacks, bronchitis, and emergency room visits.

One of the most insidious forms of air pollution is diesel exhaust, which contains over 40 potential carcinogens, as well as fine soot particles that can get lodged deep in the lung. The Clean Air Task Force recently released a report which found that fine particle pollution shortens the lives of nearly 21,000 people each year, and leads to lung cancer, heart attacks, and asthma attacks. For New Jersey's children alone, the report linked diesel pollution to over 540 emergency room visits due to asthma and nearly 1,300 cases of acute bronchitis each year.

Although school buses are far and away the safest way for children to travel to school, the diesel exhaust from school buses puts our children at unnecessary risk. A number of programs already exist to try to cut down our children's exposure to school bus exhaust, such as New Jersey's "Stop the Soot" initiative to reduce bus idling, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus campaign, which provides grants for school districts to purchase new, cleaner buses, or to retrofit old buses with pollution control equipment.

These programs are doing an excellent job reducing the amount of pollution our children are exposed to while they're waiting for the bus or just playing outside. But some recent studies have made it clear that our children have more to worry about inside a school bus than just who to sit next to. Researchers from Yale University, the University of Connecticut, the University of California, and Purdue University have found that the concentration of air pollution inside school buses can in some cases be far higher than outside the bus. And the evidence suggests most of the pollution is coming from the bus' own exhaust. One study published in March of this year suggests that in some cases the amount of exhaust inhaled by children on a school bus is greater than the amount of that bus' exhaust inhaled by all other people in a metropolitan area.

We know a lot about how to control emissions from the tailpipe. But we don't know a lot about how to control emissions inside the bus. We don't know how the pollution gets into the bus, and we don't know the best ways to stop it. That's why I'm introducing this legislation, which will direct EPA to do a comprehensive study of air quality inside school buses, and come up with the most effective strategies for keeping the pollution out. This bill also greatly increases the authorization level of EPA's Clean School Bus program, and makes sure that school districts can use grant money from that program to implement the strategies that fight in-bus pollution.

Mr. Speaker, this bill calls attention to an overlooked aspect of our fight for clean air, and it is targeted at those people who are most vulnerable to air pollution—our children. It creates no new requirements on school districts or municipalities; it simply gives them the tools necessary to make their school buses as healthy for children as possible. I ask my colleagues to join in me supporting this legislation, because dirt in a school bus should mean mud in the aisles, and not soot in the air.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 168 and H. Res. 333.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 29, and Thursday, June 30, I was attending a hearing of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in the state of Georgia regarding the proposed base closures and realignments for the southeastern states. I had the opportunity to testify on the importance of bases in Georgia, and particularly how vital Fort Benning is to my district and to our national security.

Due to my efforts in fighting for bases in the state of Georgia, I was unable to vote on some of the amendments proposed to the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development FY06 Appropriations legislation (H.R. 3058).

On the amendment of Mr. KING of Iowa, rollcall Vote No. 341, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Ms. HERSETH of South Dakota, rollcall Vote No. 342, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, rollcall Vote No. 343, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. SOUDER of Indiana, rollcall Vote No. 344, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

On the amendment of Mr. DAVIS of Florida, rollcall Vote No. 345, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Ms. LEE of California, rollcall Vote No. 346, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. SANDERS of Vermont, rollcall Vote No. 347, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. RANGEL of New York, rollcall Vote No. 348, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. SOUDER of Indiana, rollcall Vote No. 349, had I been present, I would have voted "yes." I strongly support Second Amendment rights, and the ensuring that the people have the right to personal protection. I strongly support allowing the people of the District of Columbia to defend themselves, and the crime prevention results it will bring. I applaud Mr. SOUDER for bringing this amendment, and its passage will be helpful to the people of the District.

On the amendment of Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, rollcall Vote No. 350, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut, rollcall Vote No. 351, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This legislation, sponsored by the gentleman from Kentucky, would establish procedures to protect our servicemembers from predatory practices sometimes employed by members of the financial services industry.

I want to specifically express support for Section 110 of the bill, which establishes a method for our military base commanders to obtain the information that they need to keep these problematic agents off their installations without neglecting their servicemembers of access to legitimate financial service providers.

Specifically, Section 110 creates a registry at the Department of Defense to list any agent that has been barred from entry onto any military installation. This registry will be made available to base commanders everywhere, empowering them to deny access to an agent known to employ predatory practices elsewhere.

I want to thank Mr. DAVIS and Chairman OXLEY for including the language I authored in Section 110. This language, coupled with the other provisions in the bill, will go a long way towards protecting our servicemembers from those who would prey on them financially. I encourage my colleagues to support this effort.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, on account of district business I was absent for votes on roll call numbers 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF EFFORT (CARE) ACT, LEGISLATION PROVIDING CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Caregiver Assistance and Relief Effort (CARE) Act. This bill addresses the needs of families that are making sacrifices to care for their loved ones by making long-term care more affordable. It would provide tax credits to those caring for ailing family members and loved ones, and encourage individuals to plan and invest in their own long-term care by offering a tax deduction for long-term care insurance. In addition, it would double the funding for the existing National Family

Caregiver Support Program, which supports a wide range of important services for older persons.

There are an estimated 44.4 million caregivers in the U.S., which is 21 percent of the adult population. My home state of New Jersey has over 830,000 caregivers, ranking it 9th in the country. To respond to the needs of our country and my state, I am introducing legislation that will help all American families and all New Jersey families afford to provide the care that their loved ones need and deserve.

As the father of college-age children and the son of a mother with Alzheimer's, I understand first-hand the challenges of putting children through college while providing long-term care for a loved one. Caregiving families face unique strains. They are burdened with additional costs and often caregivers must sacrifice their job or cut back on their hours at work. Almost 6 in 10 caregivers either work or have worked while providing care and 62 percent of caregivers report having had to make work-related adjustments ranging from going in late and leaving early to having to give up work entirely. Their compassion, dedication, and selflessness come at a price. This legislation is aimed at addressing their hard work and sacrifice.

The challenge of caring for our aging population will only increase as the baby boom generation grows older and our life expectancy increases. We need to work now to address the challenges of providing affordable long-term care, encourage future retirees to plan for their own long-term care, and strengthen our existing programs to address this growing need. Please join me in supporting this legislation and helping all families afford to care for the ones they love.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL WEEKEND OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my fellow citizens to engage in a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection (in recognition of the genocide occurring in Darfur, Sudan). Our Congress on July 22, 2004 and the Bush Administration on September 21, 2004 has condemned the acts in Darfur as genocide and Congress has appropriately provided humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Today, the House is urging our nation to observe a Weekend of Prayer and Reflection to recognize the atrocities in Darfur. This Weekend of Prayer and Reflection would spread awareness to communities and religious institutions, promote constructive discussion, mourn the lives lost in these dreadful acts, and ultimately call for an immediate end to the genocide.

The current crisis in Darfur began in February 2003 when two groups, The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), revolted against the Sudanese Government. Since then, the Sudanese government has actively imposed gov-

ernment restrictions and perpetrated violence against their civilians in order to crush this rebellion. The human rights violations which ensued in Darfur are numerous. The Janjaweed militia, backed by the Sudanese government, has committed grievous war crimes, such as rape, child abduction, the destruction of food and water sources, and denying humanitarian assistance to the Darfur region. An estimated 1.9 million people have been displaced and more than 213,000 people have been forced into neighboring Chad. Some observers project that up to 300,000 people have been killed over the past 2 years alone.

The United States has been a leading donor of humanitarian assistance in Darfur. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided an estimated \$615 million in humanitarian assistance for Darfur since February 2003. USAID has also established a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) for Darfur. This monetary assistance is extremely important, but the United States must also make a symbolic stance to condemn the human rights violations in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, every individual is entitled to the preservation of his and her human rights and human dignity regardless of one's religion, race, ethnicity, gender, or region of birth. The United States has a moral obligation to end the violence in order to curtail the human rights violations in Darfur. Congress must raise awareness and educate our society in order to promote understanding and initiate action. The people of the United States must not only take time to reflect on this tragedy and recognize the ongoing suffering, but we must also call an end to the genocidal acts. I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOBBY MITCHELL HALL OF FAME CLASSIC

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Bobby Mitchell Hall of Fame Classic, held in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The Bobby Mitchell Hall of Fame Classic is a golf tournament that benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Since 1990, Bobby Mitchell and other Hall of Famers have donated their time every year to help raise needed funds to find a cure for leukemia and blood-related cancers such as lymphoma and myeloma.

Since retiring from professional football after a successful 11-year career, Bobby Mitchell has dedicated his time to achieving his goal of defeating leukemia. Mitchell was traded by the Cleveland Browns to the Washington Redskins for Ernie Davis, a Heisman Trophy winner. Unfortunately Davis was diagnosed with leukemia and died at age 23, never getting the chance to play a game of professional football. Davis' heartbreaking death motivated Mitchell to take up the cause and find a cure for the disease.

This tournament is the nation's largest annual hall of fame reunion with more than 40

pro football and basketball legends present. Funds are generated by donations made through spectators, raffles and other contests. Mitchell and the fellow hall of fame participants are aiming to cross the \$4 million threshold in funds raised for the charity. Funds from the tournament are donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the Bobby Mitchell Hall of Fame Classic on 15 years of success. It has helped many lives, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Bobby Mitchell and the Hall of Famers' past accomplishments and in wishing them continued success in the many years to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LAKOTA SUPERINTENDENT KATHLEEN KLINK

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to recognize the retirement of Mrs. Kathleen Klink, Superintendent for the Lakota Local School District, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to education. For more than forty years, Mrs. Klink contributed her talents to the educational field, and for this, I offer her my utmost congratulations and thanks for her efforts.

After graduating from the University of Heidelberg in Germany, receiving a masters in education from the University of Virginia and a post graduate degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Mrs. Klink began teaching in the Hamilton City Schools. From there, she traveled to Lewiston, Maine, Charlottesville, Virginia, and Wright State University in Dayton, until she arrived in the Lakota School District. Her extensive teaching career, in which she specialized in English, German, and Counseling Psychology, provided her with valuable experience and expertise. In 1981, Mrs. Klink became Assistant Principal at Lakota High School where she served for two years until taking over as Assistant Superintendent. Then, in 1994, Mrs. Klink advanced to Superintendent where she remained until her recent retirement.

Throughout her professional career, Mrs. Klink received substantial recognition for her work including being named as the Ohio Superintendent of the Year, the Sam Walton Business Leader for Southeastern Butler County, and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators Exemplary Education Leader. Furthermore, she attended the Harvard Institute for School Leadership, the Ohio School Leadership Institute, and the Michael Fullan Leadership Seminar through the University of Toronto.

Mrs. Klink's participation in numerous professional organizations, as well as her devoted service to community positions, exemplifies the strength of her leadership. For example, Mrs. Klink served on the West Chester Chamber Alliance Board of Directors, the Fitton Center for the Arts Board of Directors, and the Executive Board for the University of Cincinnati's Center for Economic Education. In addition, she is involved in the Ohio Association of Local School Superintendents, the Phi

Delta Kappa Educational Society, and the American Association of School Administrators. Mrs. Klink's long list of publicized articles and also her guest presentations at the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Miami University, and Mt. St. Joseph College showcase her commitment to educational success.

Mrs. Klink, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for your long and successful career in the field of education. I wish you well in your future endeavors, and I hope you continue to achieve happiness and success wherever your life journey chooses to lead you throughout your retirement.

RESTORING AN OBLIGATION OF CITIZENSHIP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw our attention to the most important obligation of citizens in a democracy and to illuminate the discomfort of many Americans to the elimination of that obligation. I speak about the right to vote—the cornerstone of every democratic system of government, particularly ours.

Democracies are based on the principle that their citizens participate actively in the decision-making processes of the government. Whether in small communities or throughout the vast expanse of the Nation, citizens cast ballots to express their preferences and choices for the direction of the country and to determine the policies and leaders that will be implemented throughout the Nation. The voice of each and every citizen is expressed equally through their ballot and their ability to cast a ballot. Generations of Americans have fought and died to guarantee that all Americans share in this right and obligation.

Unfortunately, today we still face the predicament that millions of American citizens are denied their right to vote. They are denied the ability to influence policy, policymakers, political leaders, and the direction of the country that they belong to. Millions of American citizens who have been convicted of crimes in the past are denied the ability to cast ballots in elections. Regardless of the nature of their crime or any rehabilitation that may have occurred, these ex-felons cannot participate in the decision-making process of this great Nation.

Though they have served their time, fulfilled their sentence, and paid back their debt to society, millions of ex-felons continue to be punished for their past criminal records. Those who turned a corner in their life and fled the criminal path can never again fulfill the most important obligation of citizenship—voting. They remain on the outside looking in at our political system. They want, they deserve, the right to be re-integrated as full citizens into our system. Yet, the system stands firmly in their way, stripping them of their right to vote.

I bring this issue to the attention of the House of Representatives with the hope that this Congress will take the important steps of fulfilling the promises of democracy. I hope

that the House of Representatives would take action to restore the right to vote to American ex-felons. They have paid their debts to society and we should permit their participation in our democratic process. Too many Americans fought and died for this right to vote and too many today are denied the ability to exercise their rights.

I submit for the RECORD a Carib News article providing further evidence and argument for our consideration. Progress is being made on the restoration of rights to ex-felons, but immediate action is needed by this Congress.

[July 5, 2005]

PROGRESS IN RESTORING FELONS' RIGHT TO VOTE

Following victory in Iowa, where the Governor recently announced that he would reverse his state's lifetime ban on felon voting, advocates for restoring felons' right to vote expressed optimism that progress was being made in rolling back laws that disproportionately affect blacks and other minorities.

According to Catherine Weiss, a lawyer with the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, felony disenfranchisement laws represent the last vestiges of Jim Crow that disenfranchise African Americans. As of 2000, almost 5 million Americans couldn't vote because of laws that restrict those convicted of a felony from casting ballots; four in 10 of those disenfranchised were black.

The full 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York is also expected to hear arguments in cases brought by two prisoners who claim that the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which removed barriers to black voters, should be used to argue that the felony laws are unfair. Forty-eight states restrict voting rights for felons while they are behind bars or serving parole or probation. Four states—Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia—ban voting for life on the grounds that such restrictions are justified. In 2001, New Mexico lifted a lifetime ban, and Nebraska followed suit in March. In several states, felons can now apply to have their voting rights restored.

The issue of disenfranchisement escalated in Florida after the 2000 presidential election, which was decided by fewer than 600 votes there. With more than 820,000 felons who could not vote as of 2000, Florida is said to have the largest disenfranchised population of any state.

One driving force behind efforts to roll back disenfranchisement laws is the nation's swelling prison population. Though crime rates have fallen the prison population soared to 2.1 million by June 2004, according to figures compiled by the Justice Department. In 1970, that number was about 200,000.

According to Theodore M. Shaw, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, who will present arguments in the New York cases, "As the numbers of prisoners have grown, more awareness of the injustice of it has also grown."

With 13 percent of all black men barred from voting because of disenfranchisement laws, advocates contend that many have become disengaged since felons also face prohibitions in other areas of life, such as living in public housing, obtaining identification cards, and getting student loans.

On June 22, in the shadow of the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Foley Square, standing before the African Burial Ground Memorial Sculpture, New Yorkers representing persons who have a felony conviction stood in silent protest to demand the full restoration of voting rights to the formerly incarcerated.

In recognition of a historic en banc hearing in the cases of Hayden v. Pataki and

Muntaqim v. Coombe, the silent protest was conducted as the Nation recognized the 40th anniversary of the passage and President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The landmark legislation extended voting rights confirmed in the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to disenfranchised blacks in southern states. The Act has since been reauthorized and its protections extended to language minorities and northern jurisdictions with a history of vote dilution, voter intimidation, and discriminatory polling practices.

The silent protest was staged to symbolically represent citizens, who for no other reason than having been incarcerated for felony offenses have been denied their voting rights while still being expected to fulfill all other obligations of citizenship, including paying taxes.

THANKING MR. RICK CHESSER

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Rick Chesser for his 35 years of support and dedication to the State of Florida as an employee of the Florida Department of Transportation. Rick has decided to retire from public services, yet at the time of his departure, he was the longest serving District Secretary with 17 years of service to District 4, which encompasses Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties.

Throughout his 17 years with the Florida Department of Transportation, Rick has compiled a lasting legacy. Under his watch, the district received much needed funding and he opened constructive dialogue between the district, the public and local elected officials. It should also be highlighted that within District 4, Rick allocated numerous hours to ensure mobility of constituents while simultaneously keeping the best results for the environment and quality of life at heart.

In particular, Rick's commitment to South Florida's public transportation system was never more evident when he served as project director for Interstate 595. Through this project, the Port Everglades Expressway was created, Interstate 75 was constructed, and Interstate 95 was widened in two of the five counties within his district. From there, funding was received for a tri-county rail system providing even greater accessibility for South Florida commuters.

As construction progressed with these numerous projects, Rick ensured the attractiveness of the land by providing District 4 the highest level of amenities in the state for landscaping, paver blocks, and decorative lighting. He also worked with individual cities to assist them in development plans that would shift with population growth.

Mr. Speaker, Rick Chesser's work for the State of Florida and that of District 4 will not be forgotten. Rick has made great strides in the development of various areas to raise the morale and the quality of life for all residents. We are indebted to him and to his service for the past 35 years. My staff and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE
SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A
CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERIT-
AGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 71, a resolution supporting the establishment of a Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution is admirable and deeply appreciated in its recognition and celebration of the Caribbean-American community and of the contributions that community has made to every sphere of American life.

The American spirit is a tapestry that weaves cultures together, one in which people of all traditions and walks of life convene to better protect and educate one another. The Caribbean-American people are an invaluable part of his tapestry, and their influence has stretched to every field of American society, culture and politics.

The State of Florida is especially indebted to the Caribbean-American community, enjoying one of the largest and most flourishing Caribbean-American populations in the nation. The contributions of this community to Florida's economy, educational system, politics and culture, and indeed to all areas of our society, are of the greatest importance to our state and to our country.

I am so privileged to represent people of virtually every single Caribbean heritage. From Lauderdale to Miramar to West Palm Beach to Oakland Park, I am honored to work on behalf of all of these communities and many more.

As early as the 17th Century, Caribbean men and women journeyed to find new lives in America. Our regions have endured similarly difficult pasts. We shared a struggle against slavery, we shared a fight for independence, and now we share the strong ties built on social equality and democratic government.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has been profoundly shaped by the achievements of its Caribbean-American citizens. Whether in technology, science, the military, fashion, politics, government, business, education or journalism, the achievements of Caribbean-Americans have been immense and invaluable.

Some of the most revered figures in American art have come from the Caribbean-American community: actors, musicians, politicians, authors, educators and so many others. All of them have played central roles in the cultural development of this country.

This resolution enjoys strong bipartisan support including mine because it is critical for this body to acknowledge and appreciate those who contribute to America's unique and highly respected culture. I am proud to lend my support to this most excellent resolution, I urge my colleagues to do the same.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL
SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of Title II of, H.R. 458 Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. Title II of this measure regulates lenders who target the military and safeguards our armed services personnel from unscrupulous consumer credit lending and collection practices.

Many lenders have developed sales campaigns to market directly to military personnel. A few unscrupulous agents have made misleading pitches to 'captive' audiences, by posing as counselors on veteran's benefits and soliciting soldiers while they were on duty. In some instances, lenders have garnished military personnel's wages or required them to agree to have their loan repaid through the allotment system. Title II of H.R. 458 would clarify that lenders cannot garnish a military salary or give the appearance that they are agents of the military.

Predatory lenders have contacted or threatened to contact the borrower's commanding officer in order to collect debt. In addition, some lenders have required borrowers to sign documents as a condition of obtaining the loan that purportedly waive their legal rights, including requiring the borrower to submit to mandatory arbitration of any dispute. H.R. 458 would prohibit a lender to contact a loan recipient's chain of command and the measure would ensure that the customer's rights are not waived.

Title II in H.R. 458 recognizes that many military personnel are not aware of their borrowing options or rights or how to manage their finances after taking out a loan. To remember this problem, under Title II, military lenders would be required to provide detailed disclosures prior to the consummation of a loan transaction.

Last year, as a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, I expressed concerns about unscrupulous military lenders in several hearings. Some of these reported scams occurred at Fort Benning in my state of Georgia and were made public through a series of articles in the New York Times.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Title II of H.R. 458 takes strong steps to ensure that our military men and women are not treated as second-class citizens when it comes to financial transactions and loans.

THE NEED FOR CULTURAL
SENSITIVITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I come before this chamber to be heard on an issue of deep importance to US and Mexican relations. It is a concern that to many seems trivial but which in reality represents an important aspect of the cultural relationship and respect that exists between our two nations.

I speak of the stamp intending to honor the comic strip Meme Pinguin. The decision to

draw attention and promote this character that would be recognized by those in the international community as racist is an act of gross insensitivity on the part of the Mexican government. In this global day and age, the Mexican authorities should have been aware of the negative international impact of this characterization of the Negro race in grotesque imagery associated with the vilest forms of racism. They should have realized that the depiction of a childish apelike cartoon intended to draw attention to racial stereotypes would be seen as racist. They should have understood that the postage stamp would be seen as a reflection of the beliefs of Mexico and that to pay honor to a character that would signal tolerance with racism is disgraceful.

While President Fox has defended this insulting portrayal as simply cultural differences, he must also understand the cultural message his government is sending to the rest of the world. Clearly, African-Americans and other African and Afro-descendant populations would see the uplifting of a black cartoon character, with monkey-like lips and head and a childish demeanor, as an attempt to malign them. At a time when the world is becoming increasingly interdependent, President Fox's government has decided to insult an entire race of humans—a race that has long suffered discrimination, insult, and abuse. Rather than highlight for the international community and the Mexican people a rich heritage of understanding and harmony, the Mexican government has chosen a symbol of offense and smear.

Yes, we should be aware of the cultural differences that exist between the people of our two countries, but that awareness requires efforts from both sides. In this Congress and past congresses, I and members of the Congressional Black Caucus have worked to erase the elements of racism that exist towards Mexicans, Hispanics, African-Americans, and Blacks. We have reached out in the spirit of cooperation and harmony to our friends in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to fight against discrimination and discord between our people. We have pursued policies and positions that call on our leaders to decry stereotypical comments that appeal to our most basic emotions. We have united to condemn characterizations and caricatures intended to offend, defame, or marginalize our people, our race, and our community.

In the last month alone, I have been joined by a number of my colleagues in supporting an resolution to draw attention to the challenges and struggles of Afro-descendant populations in Latin America and the Caribbean. We introduced this resolution because too often the international community and the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean ignore, marginalize, and dehumanize the descendants of the transatlantic slave trade. Throughout the region, Afro-descendant populations have the lowest standards of living, the highest rates of illiteracy, the poorest standards of health care, the smallest per capita incomes, and the least amount of access to the political, social, and economic levers of power and opportunity.

It was surprising to me that, the week after the House International Relations Committee favorably marked up this resolution to recognize and support Afro-Latino and Afro-Caribbean populations, the government of Mexico would issue a postal stamp honoring an

apelike depiction of Afro-Mexicans. It was deplorable that the Mexican government would produce stamps that would remind Americans—white and black—of the humiliation and degradation of Sambo and Aunt Jemima. It is insulting that President Fox would defend the publication of this stamp as an example of our cultural misunderstandings, despite the call of the *Asociacion Mexico Negro*—a Mexican-based group representing the interests of over 50,000 blacks—for the recall of the stamps.

This is not simply an example of cultural differences. Afro-Mexicans deplore the comparison of being described as apelike and childlike, just as much as African-Americans. To say that it is acceptable to depict an entire race of people in one's country as childish apes is to not understand the universal impact and role of race in this world.

At a time when members of Congress are trying to find amicable ways of bringing our two countries together, the actions of President Fox's government apparently are to draw a line between us. President Fox has ridiculed the hard work and efforts of African-Americans. He has rejected repeated invitations to dialogue with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His government has issued stamps that not only insult the character of his own people, but also those of Afro-descendant populations in the United States, and throughout the Americas.

I am disappointed in these acts by my friends in the Mexican government and by President Fox. I hope that they will reach out once again to those with whom they have worked here in the United States and put aside these insulting and racist stamps. For us to achieve greater cultural sensitivity on the part of the United States and to obtain greater racial sensitivity in the Americas, it is important to have an equal awareness and effort on the part of our international allies.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF POMPAÑO BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Pompano Beach, Florida, which has been named as one of only ten cities nationwide designated as a 2005 All-America City by the National Civic League. I have represented the City of Pompano Beach since coming to Congress in 1981, and I take special pride in this recognition of their achievements.

The City of Pompano Beach was recognized for two programs which impact the community's youth, and an affordable housing project.

The Pompano Beach Junior Lifeguard Program which began as a small part-time recreational swimming program has grown into an annual recreation and education program for children ages nine to seventeen. The program partners parents and local schools in promoting activities which develop healthy lifestyles, sportsmanship and self-esteem in the community's youth. Childhood obesity has also been targeted with parents reporting improved eating habits, weight loss and increased muscle mass in their children.

The Kidz-N-The-Hood Program is a weekly TV show produced and scripted by kids of all ages, income levels and ethnic backgrounds. Developed to counteract the often negative and gratuitous images children are too often exposed to on television, the program receives accolades from parents and educators who report more attentive students, improved test scores and reduced drop out rates. Supported by a diverse community group including AT&T Broadband, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Pompano Middle School, Broward County Sheriff's Office, and the Broward County Urban League, the program has reached thousands of children through participation and viewing opportunities.

Pinnacle Village, a new affordable rental community, replaces a failed HUD subsidized housing complex which stood as an eyesore and haven for crime in the neighborhood. Frustrated by a failed project which had undergone numerous attempts at rehabilitation for a period of years, the public and private sectors worked together to improve the living conditions for dozens of families. The result was Pinnacle Village—148 town houses with one to three bedrooms. This project not only meets the needs of the resident families, it has had a positive impact on the surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the residents, officials, and the staff of the City of Pompano Beach whose efforts on behalf of their city have earned the title of 2005 All-America City.

TO REPORT ON THE SUCCESSES OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE'S PARLIAMEN- TARY ASSEMBLY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on the successes of the fourteenth annual session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly which convened in Washington, DC over the first five days of July. Over 800 parliamentarians and staff were in attendance, making it one of the largest assemblies in the Organization's history, and one of the most productive.

The theme of this year's session, "30 Years since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead" reminds us of the agreement that founded the OSCE, and the ideals which must guide us through the tests of the future. The Washington Declaration, a compendium of resolutions adopted at this year's session, is a testament to the excellent progress that has been made in central areas of social, economic, and human rights policy. The OSCE has maintained its position at the forefront of some of our world's most critical concerns; eradicating human trafficking, ensuring fair elections, combating social prejudice, and maintaining stable economic relationships between all nations.

Members of both branches of Congress play a central role in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Our delegation offered a resolution entitled "Combating involvement in trafficking

in human beings and sexual exploitation and abuse by international peacekeeping forces" that was adopted into the Washington Declaration. The practice of human trafficking is an affront to humanity, and must not be tolerated. According to the most recent Department of State estimates, between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year worldwide, including 14,500 into the United States. Combined with trafficking within countries, the total figure is estimated at between 2 and 4 million. The OSCE, as the world's largest regional security organization, is uniquely positioned to take on this critical issue.

During this year's session, the U.S. delegation made major progress in international trade. Representative BEN CARDIN, Ranking Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, spearheaded a resolution urging the Mediterranean Partners to work with the Arab League in order to rescind the trade boycott of the State of Israel. The boycott has existed for almost half a century, and it is clear that a healthy economic relationship between the United States, Israel, and the Middle East will be central in the fight for a stable and more peaceful world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to serve as the current President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and delighted to have been elected to a second term. The U.S. delegation was at the forefront of efforts to preserve the quality of the OSCE's election monitoring activities, the battle against anti-Semitism and efforts to set codes of conduct for peacekeepers and international representatives.

We were also privileged to welcome you, Mr. Speaker, and Secretary Rice, to address the Assembly and I am pleased to report that the conference was a major success.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask for unanimous consent that the statement of the Honorable Canadian Senator Jerry Grafstein be added to the RECORD immediately following this statement. Senator Grafstein was elected to a second term as Treasurer of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, a clear endorsement of his dedication, prudence and fine leadership. I thank him for his kind words, and I thank the whole Canadian delegation for their admirable contributions to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO- OPERATION IN EUROPE

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMEN- TARY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Jeremiah S. Grafstein: Honourable senators, yesterday the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe completed its fourteenth annual session in Washington, D.C. It lasted over five days and was attended by more than 1,000 parliamentarians and staff. It was probably the largest assembly in its history. The Washington Declaration, a compendium of all resolutions adopted, will be tabled in the Senate. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is composed of parliamentarians from 55 member states, and is the largest international organization dedicated to the advancement of democratic rights, human rights, and economic and security co-operation.

The Washington Declaration included a number of issues on which Canadian parliamentarians took the lead: trafficking in human beings; steps for cooperation in the Middle East; combating anti-Semitism; advancing the fight against corruption amongst parliamentarians and in the public

service; improving democratic surveillance of election monitoring; codes of conduct for peacekeepers and international representatives; and gender issues.

I was pleased to be re-elected for a third time as a Senior Officer and Treasurer and as Leader of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformer's Political group. I extend my appreciation and congratulations to our colleague, the Honourable Senator Di Nino, for his assiduous performance as head of the Canadian delegation. I intend to have the Senate consider a number of aspects of the Washington Declaration, which each parliamentary delegation was mandated to do under the declaration.

I would like to add a special word of congratulations to Speaker Dennis Hastert, of the House of Representatives, to our Congressional American hosts and to Congressman Alcee Hastings, who was re-elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Association and who invited us to share an outstanding visit to George Washington's home on Mount Vernon on the Potomac. Our hosts also invited us to participate in the festivities on Capitol Hill for their July 4 celebration, together with over one million Americans. It was a memorable experience for all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, July 11, 2005, I was delayed in the Cincinnati Airport due to a mechanical failure of my plane, a parts swap, and a new plane having to be brought in for my flight from Cincinnati to Washington. There were no other flight options for me to arrive in Washington before the votes occurred on H. Con. Res. 168 (Rollcall No. 363) and H. Res. 333 (Rollcall No. 364). Had I been here to cast my votes, I would have voted "aye" on both H. Con. Res. 168 and H. Res. 333 and with the RECORD to reflect as such.

As a member of the Human Rights Caucus and a stern believer that every human being has certain irrevocable rights, I stand in strong favor of both of these pieces of legislation. We cannot and should not stand by as gross human rights violations such as the kidnappings in Korea and the genocide in Darfur continue. I applaud my colleagues, Representative HENRY HYDE and Representative DONALD PAYNE, for introducing these bills and bringing them to the floor for our consideration.

Almost 3 years ago North Korean leader Kim Jong-il admitted that North Korea had ordered abductions of Japanese citizens and promised that it would never do so again. However, evidence has surfaced that the North Korean government has continued to order the abductions of numerous foreign citizens and has placed these captives, along with prisoners of war, in forced labor camps. To stand by and do nothing in response to these gross violations of human rights is unthinkable and this bill clearly states to Kim Jong-il and the North Korean government that the United States will not let this continue.

I am also pleased that we were able to debate H. Res. 333. I have been a huge supporter of our past funding for aid to Darfur and

our condemnation of the genocide occurring there and can think of no better way to complement these actions than by praying for and reflecting on this horrible situation. The better we personally understand this situation, the better we as a Congress will be able to respond to and prevent situations such as these from occurring in the future. As a man of faith, I will stand with my family, my colleagues, and fellow citizens and pray for the people of Darfur and reflect on the ongoing atrocities that they face on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you again for allowing me to express my support for these two bills as I was unfortunately delayed on my way to Washington.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL WEEK-END OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Congressman PAYNE's resolution H. Res. 333—supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur. The violence and ongoing humanitarian challenges that the people of Darfur continue to face necessitate that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers, and continue to ensure that the Darfur issue remains firmly within the purview of U.S. policymakers, until a final resolution is reached.

Communities of faith in the United States have always played a role in eliciting action on an array of historic moral questions. From the anti-slavery and civil rights movements in this country, to the campaign to end the terrible Ethiopian famines of the 1980's, the power of faith was brought to bear in an attempt to address an issue of human suffering.

The ongoing crisis in Darfur is one such issue, that warrants the continued engagement of the American religious community—especially when engagement from other sources has, in some instances, been lacking. The Darfur conflict has so far claimed as much as 400,000 lives, and displaced at least 2.4 million. The United States has to its credit taken the lead among world powers in addressing the conflict by providing humanitarian assistance to the Darfuri people, and applying pressure to the Sudanese government. America's religious communities have been instrumental in compelling the United States government to become involved.

However, in recent months the Administration has been rather muted on the Darfur issue. Indeed, the Administration has backed away from classifying the actions of the Sudanese government and its Janjaweed militia as genocide, and U.S. and Sudanese officials have visited each other consistently in recent months. With the recent peace agreement between the Khartoum government and the oil-producing region of southern Sudan, as well as Sudanese cooperation on U.S. terrorism efforts, there is talk of the U.S. lifting sanctions on Sudan.

Such hospitable relations are very concerning, considering the fact that the situation

in the Darfur is still dire. While the killings in aggregate have decreased, the cease-fire is extremely fragile. In the absence of the small African Union peacekeeping force, and the humanitarian assistance provided by the international community, Darfur would easily fall back into chaos. Indeed, U.N. humanitarian coordinator Manuel Aranda Da Silva said that the situation could deteriorate quickly if foreign assistance stops coming.

In addition, rape is still a widespread tactic utilized by government and its militia, as well as forced military recruitment of young people. According to officials from the United Nations High Committee on Refugees, areas outside peacekeeping observation remain very dangerous. As such, the United States must maintain its pressure on the Sudanese government, and clearly convey to them that any improvement in relations between our two countries is contingent on resolution of the Darfur crisis.

The religious community is well placed, and equipped with the moral authority, to compel the United States government not to decrease its engagement on the Darfur issue. It is my hope that communities of faith will reflect this coming weekend on the continuing crisis in Darfur—because only when we reflect, will we be emboldened to act. Again, I thank the Gentleman from New Jersey for this resolution, as our struggle for the people of Darfur is far from over.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD that on July 11th of this year, due to unavoidable circumstances, I was unable to be present. If I had been in attendance, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted in the following manner on these bills:

On H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights I would have voted "yea."

On H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan I would have voted "yea."

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support Title II of H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. Title II's provisions are especially important as they will help prevent high-cost military lenders from preying on the men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces.

This important measure provides needed protections for military borrowers from various

types of high-cost lenders, including for example, finance companies, title lenders and small loan companies.

These legislative provisions will give military personnel new warning disclosures and special protections against abusive collection practices and other improper lending practices by unethical lenders like Pioneer Financial that target vulnerable service members and charge unreasonably high rates and fees and sell them grossly overpriced credit insurance and who then refinance these predatory loans within the first 12 months if possible to generate more unjustifiable fees for the lender.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Davis of Kentucky and other colleagues who took the lead in developing this legislation, and am proud to lend my support as it will help ensure our Armed Forces personnel will have essential new safeguards to stop abuses that Pioneer and some other unscrupulous high-cost lenders have engaged in.

THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the plight of Africa has been the focus of much public discourse in recent months. The G-8 made commendable progress on the issue of African development in its Summit, but there is still much to be done. On a recent trip to the United States, Nelson Mandela visited the Riverside Church in New York City to thank the American people for their support in helping South Africa overcome apartheid, but also to remind us that Africa still faced enormous challenges.

The Riverside Church where Mr. Mandela spoke has long been a leader within America's faith community in bringing attention to various issues of social justice, even when the cause was not popular. The Church was a major center of activism during the antiapartheid movement, and had hosted Mr. Mandela on his first visit to the United States after being released from prison in 1990.

While Mr. Mandela won his fight against Apartheid in South Africa, he is still waging a battle against the many problems that face the African continent. The beginning of the 21st century sees an Africa affected by widespread poverty, the HIV/AIDS crisis, and crippling levels of debt. Mr. Mandela, through his Mandela Foundation, is fighting to address these critical issues.

On that note, I submit for the RECORD a piece from the July 5th edition of the CaribNews. The piece is by Harry Belafonte, the internationally known entertainer and activist, and was used to introduce Mr. Mandela at the Riverside Church event in May. The words of this introduction provide us ample food for thought as we continue the still unfinished crusade for African development.

RIVERSIDE CATHEDRAL, A PLATFORM FOR TRUTH

A SEARCH FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE OF NELSON MANDELA

This (Riverside) Cathedral has vigorously embraced its covenant with truth in the midst of the exodus of so many houses of worship that have in the name of faith and God made treaty with the devil.

Riverside Church has given us reason to believe in speaking truth to power. Many have claimed to be keepers of the flock. They have declared their right to pick who shall or shall not enter into the "kingdom of Heaven." Others have hidden behind the cloak of morality as they indulge themselves and the nation in the sin of homophobia that crucifies fellow human beings. There are those religious leaders and institutions that have announced unjust wars and carry the cross before armies that destroy the innocent and plunder the earth.

There are many Black church leaders who salivate in the midst of this new Christian inquisition for just thirty pieces of silver rewarded by the Caesar of faith-based oppression. All have made us understand how privileged we are that the (Reverend) James Forbes administers to our soul and can never be charged with patriotic treason.

Riverside Church has generously yielded its pulpit to many of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century. It has blessed and embraced all those, regardless of faith, who have come here in defiance of the tyranny of the State. Powerful voices have been heard in these walls, which speak out against injustice and bring truth and humanity to rebellious cause. This cathedral inspires change in a world that hungers for more than the food of the body; it hungers for leaders with voices of courage that will provide food and moral plenty for the soul. In this place, we once gather to honor truth.

After centuries of oppression and destruction, Africa, the greatest resource in the building of the empires of the world, has found no kindness from her conquerors. No one came to her with a Marshall Plan. She has found no generosity from the banks of her bleeders. Quite the contrary. Africa severely hemorrhages from the burden of the financial debt she carries. She cannot even repay the interest on the debt.

In many places, the continent suffocates from the pollution of decaying bodies that have died from violence. Americans and Europeans often view nuclear bombs, germ warfare, chemical weapons, poison gas and planes crashing to buildings as the only weapons of mass destruction. But for Africa, with 15 million of her people dead and millions more wounded, handguns, automatic rifles and land mines are added to the list. The great irony is that Africa does not have the capacity to mass-produce weapons. America and Europe, however, sell her all the arms required while vigorously fueling the conditions that create the demands for them.

For Africans, poverty, ignorance and illiteracy are also weapons of mass destruction. These realities, coupled with 27 million people infected with HIV/AIDS and 10 million children orphaned by the disease, ravage the population. And all of the sins attributable to Africa's pain, global indifference is the greatest offender.

But a maturing Africa is coming together in ways that are different than before. She is making choices that are African choices. The Africa on the horizon will have no tolerance for colonial status in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund's economic slavery system, a system that, while admitting to its share of guilt, defined as "mistakes of the past", stays tragically addicted to the same sins of the present. Africa will no longer endure these indignities. She will know a decidedly different future. With this new determination, Africa affirms her spiritual, cultural and historical allegiance to her decedents in the four corners of the earth. She is telling citizens of the Diaspora that they are first and foremost citizens of the continent and saying to them, "Come, for by right of birth and of struggle and our common history, you are of us."

Most of this vision set in motion by the entrance of the Democratic Republic of South Africa into the arena of democratic nations. The African National Congress commits itself and the nation to the development, welfare, peace and dignity of the entire continent and other nations in the world who are in need. Its voice speaks for all to hear that this 21st century will be Africa's century.

Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela has stood here (at Riverside) before. From this Cathedral our nation was inspired when he spoke of his vision for the future of his South Africa. Through the guidance of his political genius and the compelling force of his moral authority he transformed his nation from a cruel oppressive state into one of the most advanced democracies humankind has ever known. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this achievement was Madiba and his comrades did this without the violence and racial upheaval the world anticipated. During the time of his presidency, he transformed his countrymen's mood for revenge into one whose desire to be a continuing search for national harmony rooted in truth and reconciliation.

Now in the autumn of his winter years he comes again to America at a time when our nation faces one of the most critical crossroads in its history. Would that our nation could be touched by his humanity and be guided by his moral vision!

(Harry Belafonte, the world famous actor, singer and human and civil rights advocate was introducing Nelson Mandela to a large audience at the Riverside Church during the South African Nobel Peace Prize winner's recent visit to New York City.)

JERRY HALE AND DAVE BRAGG

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on the quiet afternoon of July 7, 2005 in Parker City, Indiana, Tim Hammer, who is paralyzed and wheelchair-bound, was crossing a set of railroad tracks on Franklin Street. Almost immediately after he began to cross the tracks, the traffic arms lowered to signal an approaching train. Hammer's wheelchair hit a rough spot and he was thrown to the ground. At the same time, Jerry Hale and Dave Bragg of Parker City were repairing an herbicide sprayer about fifty feet from the railroad crossing. Hale and Bragg saw Hammer lying on the tracks unable to move and the freight train approaching the crossing at approximately 55 miles per hour. In an instant, Hale and Bragg dropped their work and sprinted to the crossing where they pulled Hammer to safety just seconds before the train barreled through and crushed his empty wheelchair.

Hale and Bragg should be commended for their feats of courage and the nobility of purpose behind their actions. These men risked their lives in order to save the life of a stranger during his moment of need. Their actions on July 7th speak volumes about their good character and the high regard with which they hold human life.

After the incident, Hale and Bragg stated that they were uncomfortable with being called heroes and believed that they had been placed near the railroad crossing by the grace of God. Mr. Speaker, through the grace of

God, America is blessed to have heroes such as these men, and I am honored today to commend them as heroes whose courage and selflessness should serve as an example to all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF HORACE L.
DICKERSON, JR.

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the contributions to our great country by a fine public servant who has selflessly given his time and talents to help his fellow man. Horace L. Dickerson, Jr. has served as the Southwest Regional Commissioner for the Social Security Administration since 1997. This position culminated a career that began in 1971. He has spent the past 34 years working with employees that Mr. Dickerson fondly refers to as "his family."

In his time with the Social Security Administration, Mr. Dickerson has been an outstanding example to his fellow employees, taking care of the needs of the American people. He has always carried with him an innate understanding that the institution he worked for was charged with an important public duty. To carry out that mission meant completing every task at the highest standards achievable.

His work ethic is to be admired and we can only hope duplicated. He fostered communication between his employees and encouraged teamwork to produce outstanding results for the people he serviced.

He retires with the admiration of his co-workers and a grateful administration. On behalf of the people of Louisiana's 7th Congressional District and the American public, I thank Horace L. Dickerson for his years of public service.

HONORING ANGELO REGUSCI OUT-
STANDING AGRICULTURALIST OF
THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angelo Regusci who has been named the 2005 Agriculturalist of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau.

I have had the privilege of knowing the Regusci family for nearly all of my life. Angelo, the family's patriarch, has spent the last eight decades as a dairyman, cattle rancher, farmer, businessman, viticulturalist and winemaker in the heart of the Napa Valley's Stags Leap District. Mr. Regusci, as I always referred to him while growing up just a short distance from his family's ranch, is a man of great talent and practical wisdom.

Mr. Regusci grew up living the hardscrabble life of rancher's son. He and his sister Isabella worked side-by-side with their parents Gaetano and Livia as they wrestled a living from the land through hard work and perseverance. Their stunning 286-acre ranch on the Silverado Trail was purchased by Angelo's fa-

ther in 1932 or the princely sum of \$22,000. As the economics of agriculture evolved over the next fifty years, Angelo and his family transitioned their love of labor and land from dairy to prunes to beef and ultimately to premium wine grapes. Throughout this entire time, Angelo and his family remained pillars of their community for their contributions to the advancement of agriculture and their work on behalf of local youths wanting to pursue future careers in farming.

Angelo Regusci began selling grapes door-to-door decades before his now famous Stags Leap District started producing coveted \$100 bottles of Cabernet. He and his brother-in-law sold grapes by the ton to first and second-generation Italian, Portuguese, German and Greek home winemakers who kept alive the custom of making wine at home. I am told the price varied from \$50 to \$70 per ton, depending on whether they had to carry the bins more than two flights of stairs.

Angelo and Mary Regusci have produced many of the Napa Valley's greatest resources, but their finest contribution to our community has been the wonderful children they have raised and shared with all of us. They should be extremely proud of Jim, Joe, Bernadette and Martha.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and honor Angelo Cesare Regusci for his contributions to American agriculture and for being awarded the 2005 Napa County Farm Bureau Agriculturalist of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005, I missed two recorded votes. I take my responsibility to vote very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Con. Res. 168, a resolution condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights, rollcall No. 363; and "yea" on H. Res. 333, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a "National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan", rollcall No. 364.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, I was absent for votes because of my inability to travel due to Hurricane Dennis which hit the State of Alabama on July 10, 2005. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present for votes, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 363 and 364.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL ROBERT A. ROWLETTE,
JR.

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Colonel Robert A. Rowlette, Jr., Commander of the Louisville Engineer District since July 2002. Colonel Rowlette will retire from active duty with the U.S. Army on September 1st of this year, with over 26 years of dedicated service to our nation.

A native of Berea, Kentucky, Colonel Rowlette was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the University of Kentucky where he earned both a Bachelor's and Masters degree in Civil Engineering. During his military career, Colonel Rowlette's leadership, vision and dedication to duty have contributed significantly to the national defense, economic prosperity and quality of life for our citizens.

As Commander of the Corps of Engineers' Louisville District, Colonel Rowlette oversaw Army, Air Force and DOD military construction projects valued in excess of \$350 million annually. Major military installations supported include, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox in Kentucky, Scott Air Force Base near St. Louis, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton as well as Army and Air Force Reserve facilities nationwide. Additionally, Colonel Rowlette has been responsible for comprehensive water resources and project operations in 76,000 square miles of the Ohio River watershed, providing flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration and commercial navigation.

Colonel Rowlette extended his leadership well beyond the assigned missions of the Corps of Engineers by personally participating in regional events and promoting a strong partnership between Army and civilian engineers. As immediate Past President of the Society of American Military Engineers' (SAME) Kentuckiana Post, Colonel Rowlette was responsible for hosting the 2005 Joint Engineer Education and Training Conference where more than 1,200 participants came together for professional development.

Prior assignments also reflect Colonel Rowlette's commitment to military readiness and willingness to share his considerable talents for the good of others. His service as Commander of the Charleston (South Carolina) District supported our nation's vital deep-draft ports and operation of the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway; as Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he helped prepare our future Army leaders; and while serving in a variety of combat battalion assignments he helped provide the military deterrence necessary for peace.

A good neighbor and valued steward of our defense assets and natural resources, Colonel Rowlette will be remembered for his spirit of service, patriotism and dedication to our nation. On the occasion of his retirement, I wish to extend my best wishes to Colonel Rowlette, his wife Janet and their children Robert and Meredith.

THE HONORABLE FRITZ E.
LAWAETZ

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a native son of the Virgin Islands, affectionately known as "The Bull from Annaly," the Honorable Frits E. Lawaetz, who passed away early this month. Senator Lawaetz was a true legend in our Caribbean American territory as a successful rancher, businessman, legislator, community leader, churchman and family man.

Born in Little La Grange, St. Croix on October 5, 1907, Senator Lawaetz was the son of Carl and Marie Lawaetz. A tall and imposing figure who was larger than life, Senator Lawaetz was fluent in English, Danish, Spanish and "Crucian." He was educated in Denmark and apprenticed to Danish farms until his return to St. Croix in 1925. He worked in various roles in the sugar industry as a cowboy and a manager in St. Croix at the La Grange Sugar Factory and in Puerto Rico at the United Puerto Rico Sugar Company.

Mr. Speaker, In 1940, Senator Lawaetz became the General Manager of Estate Annaly, owned by the late Ward Canady. There, he developed the largest private agricultural concern in the Virgin Islands with a 400-acre sugar cane farm and a 1500-head cattle ranch. He was instrumental in developing the famous "Senepol" brand of cattle, a world recognized sturdy breed of cattle in 1954. He began an export business, exporting bulls throughout the Caribbean, helping to improve the regional stock.

In partnership with Canady and his eldest son Hans, Senator Lawaetz founded Annaly Farms in 1964. He formed the Virgin Islands Senepol Breed Association in 1977 and served on its board until 1988 when headquarters for the association moved to the United States and became the Senepol Cattle Breeders Association with 500 breeders worldwide. The association now exports cattle, semen and embryos of the hardy breed to Australia, Africa and the Far East. The Breeders Association has honored Senator Lawaetz by naming its highest award the Frits Eduard Lawaetz Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, an avid sportsman, Senator Lawaetz founded the Annaly Athletics in the 1950s, which sent seven local athletes on to play professional baseball, including major leaguers Joe Christopher (Mets) Julio Navarro (Tigers) and Elmo Plaskett (Pirates).

Serving for 20 years in the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Senator Lawaetz was first elected in 1954 under the new Organic Act. He served from 1955 to 1970 and then again from 1974 to 1979, before retiring at the age of 71. He was known as the "People's Senator" and is still the longest serving senator from St. Croix. Married to childhood sweetheart, Bodil Tornoe for 63 years until her death in 1999, Lawaetz had three sons, Hans, Bent and Frits (deceased) who followed his footsteps in agriculture and community service.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Lawaetz received many honors and commendations in his distinguished life including being named to the order of the Commander of the Danneborg be-

stowed on him by the Queen of Denmark who he hosted on her visit to the Virgin Islands in May, 1976. He was named to the "Personalities of the Caribbean", the International Guide to Who's Who in the West Indies, Who's Who in American Politics, Who's Who in the South and South West and the Notable American Award. He served as a Delegate to the 1980 Democratic Presidential Convention. In 1982, the Lagoon Street Homes in Frederiksted were named in his honor in recognition of his efforts in their establishment and for his many years of dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Senator Lawaetz also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Virgin Islands Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America, the Outstanding Service Award from the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Frederiksted, and he was appointed by the Danish Council Blak of the Virgin Islands as Honorable Trustee of Danish Cemeteries on St. Croix. In 2000, a book on his life, entitled "The Bull From Annaly" was written by Priscilla Watkins.

Mr. Speaker, until recently, Senator Lawaetz could be seen at every significant community activity. He will be missed by many. I will personally miss his words of advice, or praise or caution, whichever he felt was needed and which was always generously given. His memory will always loom large in my mind and in that of the entire Territory. His many contributions will endure as a lasting legacy for the benefit of many generations to come. One can truly say that the Virgin Islands is a better place because he passed this way.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family, staff and the entire Virgin Islands community I extend condolences to his family and friends and our enduring gratitude for his service to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Denmark and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOB ABBEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Bob Abbey. Bob recently announced his retirement from 32 years of Government service—25 years with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) alone—a career that all Americans should thank him for.

I represent a State where the Federal Government owns and controls almost 90 percent of our land. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency and the U.S. Forest Service oversees parts of Nevada, more than 48 million acres of public lands in Nevada were controlled under Bob's leadership at the BLM for over 8 years—a large feat for anyone to undertake.

As Nevada's BLM Director, Bob was influential in ensuring that Nevada's public lands are preserved for future generations by taking an active leadership role in restoration and conservation projects, such as the Great Basin Restoration Initiative. Despite the monumental tasks he was often presented with due to the diverse nature of Nevada's landscape, Bob was always able to understand the importance of long-term goals so that our children's children can someday enjoy "wild Nevada."

Thank you, Bob Abbey, for your hard work and dedication as Nevada's BLM Director. Your love for our State is evident and appreciated, and I join with all Nevadans in wishing you a happy retirement.

INCOME EQUITY ACT OF 2005

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Income Equity Act of 2005. I have long believed that the growing wage gap in our country is a big problem that we need to address. Wage disparities between high- and low-income households are the largest on record. My legislation would encourage companies to evaluate their pay scale with a focus on those paid the lowest wages.

The Income Equity Act of 2005 would do two things: For tax purposes, companies are currently able to deduct reasonable employee compensation from their taxable income—up to \$1 million dollars. My legislation would cap the top write-off for a company at 25 times whatever the lowest paid full-time employee earns. In other words, if the lowest paid worker makes \$20,000 in a year, the highest salary write-off would be \$500,000—25 times the lowest salary. But the important part is linking top to the bottom. My goal is that companies would be encouraged to evaluate their entire payscale—with an incentive to re-evaluate the lowest salaries paid.

My legislation also addresses payment in the form of stocks. Our tax code currently has no jurisdiction over compensation in the form of stock options or unrestricted stock, which is where most high-paid executives are deriving the bulk of their bounty these days.

I am not suggesting that we limit CEO pay. However, I believe that hard-working Americans should earn enough money to properly feed, house and clothe their families, and American businesses have a role to play.

The idea for the Income Equity Act occurred to me during a Congressional trip to Mexico in the early 90s where I witnessed extraordinary wealth alongside with heart-breaking poverty.

For years, we've been hearing reports of the growing gap between high wage earners and low wage earners. And this year is no different. As reported by many national magazines in annual executive pay surveys, salary increases continue to be more and more disproportionate. Business Week magazine, for example, reported that average CEO compensation rose 15 percent in the past year, while average worker compensation rose a mere 2.9 percent. And in some cases, lavish rewards continue to be heaped on executives with little to no correlation to stock performance or the fiscal health of the company.

The Census Bureau's most recent report shows that the disparities between high- and middle-income and the gap between high- and low-income households are the largest (or tied for the largest) on record since this data has been available.

In 1979, the total income of the top 1 percent equaled the income of the bottom 27 percent. In 2000, the total income of the top 1 percent equaled the income of the bottom 48 percent. That ratio still stands today.

People at the bottom of the income ladder suffer when they can't support themselves by their wages. In the end, our entire society pays when those being left behind must rely on government support for food, housing and health care.

Income inequality also threatens our democratic principles: Americans hold deeply the view that every person willing to work hard should be rewarded. But equal opportunity is undermined when most workers do not fairly share in the wealth created by their work.

To illustrate this point, one person earning a minimum wage would have to work 11,660 years to earn what the top-paid CEO made in 2004—which was \$120.1 million. This is outrageous, and our government should not be in the business of encouraging or subsidizing such disparity.

While developing the assembly line and Ford Motor Co., Henry Ford firmly believed that all of his employees should be able to afford to buy the cars they were making. His compensation philosophy didn't just serve his employees well. It provided Ford Motor Company with a workforce that had incredible morale, high productivity, loyalty and ongoing recruiting success.

Mr. Speaker, there is no bad job, just bad pay. Removing tax deductions for excessive compensation sends the message that American taxpayers expect companies to do better by their workers.

RECOGNIZING KOFI ANNAN FOR
HIS ROLE IN THE CREATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS DEMOC-
RACY FUND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan for his outstanding leadership in the creation of the United Nations Democracy Fund.

Under Mr. Annan's guidance, the UN has held leaders of the global community to a higher degree of accountability. In 2001, the Secretary-General issued a "Call to Action" to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic and proposed the establishment of a Global AIDS and Health Fund to stimulate the increased spending needed to help developing countries around the world confront the HIV/AIDS crisis.

His dedication to spreading democracy has also been at the forefront of his agenda. In 1998, he was instrumental in a mission to help promote the transition to civilian rule in Nigeria.

Earlier this year, Mr. Annan introduced his UN reform package, calling on world leaders to be responsible to the global community. His plan included strategies for achieving international development, maintaining security and ensuring human rights. Among these initiatives was the creation of the UN Democracy Fund. The fund promises to promote democracy throughout the world by providing technical assistance to countries seeking to establish or strengthen their democracy. Mr. Annan has urged Member States to show their support for democracy by financially contributing to the fund. These contributions will then be

distributed within the UN Fund for International Partnerships.

Mr. Annan's perseverance has allowed for international cooperation in spreading democracy. So far, twenty-six countries, including the U.S., have expressed their support to fund.

It takes leaders from all over the world to deal with global threats and issues. Mr. Annan has taken an important step in holding these leaders accountable for doing just that.

The following CNN article discusses Mr. Annan's reforms and the UN Democracy Fund.

ANNAN: ADOPT U.N. REFORM PACKAGE

UNITED NATIONS (CNN)—U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has urged world leaders to reconfigure the international body to reflect the world's population and better enable it to tackle environmental and human rights challenges.

In the speech he delivered to the general assembly, Annan urged countries to adopt his entire reform package at a summit of world leaders in September.

The report comes five years after the Millennium Declaration, in which the United Nations pledged to slash poverty rates around the world by 2015, and six months before a summit in New York to address achieving that goal.

Annan described his plan—which gives equal weight to development, security and human rights—as a comprehensive strategy.

"Specifically, I ask developing countries to improve their governments, uphold the rule of law, combat corruption and adopt an inclusive approach to development," Annan said.

The report, years in the making, comes days before Paul Volcker is expected to issue a report on Annan's handling of the corrupt oil-for-food program in Iraq. But Annan denied that there was any link.

Volcker, a former Federal Reserve chairman, began leading an independent probe of the program for the United Nations almost a year ago.

Annan's proposal establishes a specific charitable goal for prospering nations. By 2015, he wants developed countries to spend .7 percent of their gross domestic income on official development assistance.

And he linked prosperity and the environment. "Our efforts will be in vain if they are resolved by continued degradation of the environment and depletion of natural resources."

Annan said he wants the Kyoto Protocol extended beyond its 2012 expiration.

SECURITY COUNCIL SHIFTS

Annan's proposals include a recommendation to expand the 15-member Security Council to 24 to make it more representative of today's "geopolitical realities."

He recommends three, non-permanent seats with two-year terms and six new permanent seats—two from Africa, three from Asia and one from Latin America. None would have veto rights.

"Five out of the six will come from regions and areas that are under-represented."

Those seats would be in addition to the permanent seats the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China hold.

Annan also proposed strengthening its human rights mechanisms by abolishing the Commission on Human Rights and replacing it with a smaller, standing Human Rights Council.

Among other changes Annan requested were:

Creating a "Democracy Fund" with contributions from member states to provide money and technical assistance to countries seeking to establish or strengthen their democracy.

Asking all member states to sign and implement a comprehensive convention on terrorism, "based on a clear and agreed definition" of the term.

Strengthening the rule of law, human rights and democracy and clarifying when the use of force is necessary.

Reforming the secretariat to make it more transparent, and buying out some employees and replacing them with staffers who have the skills necessary to implement his proposals.

Pursuing the establishment of a worldwide early warning system for natural disasters.

"What's needed now is not more declarations or promises, but action," Annan said. "I believe my report provides a clear program of action."

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF HINES,
OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of Hines, Oregon, on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary. Although incorporated on December 8, 1930, Hines has a rich history going back to the 1870s.

In 1873, Mr. George A. Smyth was the earliest recorded settler near what is now Hines. He and his immediate family moved from the Willamette Valley to the "Warm Spring" area just south of Hines. Shortly thereafter, two brothers by the names of William and Montz Currey set up their ranch headquarters at a small spring, which is now located in the northwest section of Hines. They had a small general store and saloon that was used occasionally as a barricade by nearby settlers when rumors of attacks were circulated after the Paiute Indian uprising in 1878. The Warm Spring was also the site of year-round cattle grazing and many buckaroo camps for the fall and spring cattle round-ups.

In 1924, the Fred Herrick Lumber Company received a contract to start construction of the Malheur Railroad company's tracks to the City of Burns. The lumber company anticipated harvesting 890,000,000 board feet of Ponderosa pine from the nearby Bear Valley District of the Malheur National Forest. They chose the site of the Warm Spring for the construction of a lumber mill because it provided an ice-free log pond. In 1928, the Edward Hines Lumber Company of Chicago took over the Herrick interests of both the railroad and uncompleted lumber mill because of numerous delays in the project.

Due to the Hines Company's strong interest in the area, the Stafford-Derbes & Roy Company, a real estate development firm from New Orleans, purchased land from various ranchers and homestead owners to develop the beginnings of a new city. This project was advertised across the country as "The greater Burns development in the Great Harney Valley, it is Oregon's first made-to-order community, and one of the first scientifically planned cities undertaken in America." Edward Hines and his wife designed and planned the new city around a circular park that was to be, and still is, the heart of Hines. Mrs. Hines stipulated that every house be constructed with slight differences. She wanted this new city to

look different from other mill towns. In 1929, Edward Hines ordered the first 150 homes built for his employees who were due to arrive within a year from Minnesota and Mississippi. In December 1930, the City of Hines was incorporated. The first officers to serve the city were selected, and by 1931 they had their first elementary school and post office. For the next sixty years, Hines Lumber and its employees prospered in this hidden oasis of the high desert.

Development slowed when the mill closed in the early 1990's. However, the loggers who lived there were very proud to have worked for the Edward Hines Lumber Company. Hines has always maintained its own identity. Even today, its residents are fiercely independent people who pride themselves on being from Hines and not from the adjacent city of Burns. This strong sense of community and history is evident by the families that still gather in Hines City Park, the hub of this pioneer town, as envisioned by Mr. and Mrs. Hines.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Hines, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the history of this fine town.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CEDAR POINT AMUSEMENT PARK ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOTEL BREAKERS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to a special company in Ohio. This year, Cedar Point Amusement Park's Hotel Breakers in Sandusky, Ohio will celebrate one-hundred years of dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio is one of the oldest and most renowned entertainment complexes in the United States. Founded in 1870, Cedar Point has succeeded in providing family entertainment for over 135 years.

Opening on June 12, 1905 to a flurry of excitement, the Hotel Breakers welcomed more than five thousand visitors to its grand opening showcasing a hotel complete with running water, quite a feat for 1905. In addition to its state of the art amenities, the Hotel Breakers included a decor influenced by the elegance of the chateaus of France.

When the Hotel Breakers welcomed its first guests, rooms ranged from \$1 to \$2 per night and a meal cost only 35 cents. While today's prices may have risen, the Hotel now offers over 650 rooms, three pools, a deli, coffee shop, pizzeria and restaurant. Throughout its long history, the Hotel Breakers has also welcomed some of our country's finest guests. Among its accomplished guest list, the Hotel Breakers has welcomed Annie Oakley, Abbott and Costello, John Philip Sousa, and six U.S. presidents.

Throughout its many updates, much of the early twentieth-century charm has remained, including the stained-glass windows, designed by Louis Buser of Tiffany's and which continue to grace the lobby. With its history, and newer amenities such as sitting areas, an arcade and

three gift shops, the Hotel Breakers is much more than a night's stay, it is an experience.

Mr. Speaker, the real success of the Hotel Breakers comes not only from the elegance of its facilities, but from its employees. The management and staff of the Hotel Breakers have indeed provided their guests with the service and dependability that are expected of a first-class resort. The staff's attention to service, boundless enthusiasm and loyalty to the history of the hotel continues to make the Hotel Breakers a world class hotel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of Cedar Point's Hotel Breakers. As all who benefit from this fine establishment gather to celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary of service, I am confident that the good people of Sandusky, Ohio, will continue the successes of the Hotel Breakers into the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RODNEY STEPP

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulation to Mr. Rodney Stepp—a musician par excellence. Although there are many musically talented individuals in the Indianapolis area none compare to the abundance of talent, compassion and reputation of excellence.

Mr. Stepp was introduced to music by his parents at age 4. His parents enrolled him with the prestigious Jordan Conservatory School of music, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana. Imagine the foresight of his parents who believed their son was not too young to begin a career of music superbness.

Following the dictum: "Unto whom much is given, much is required." Rodney has been widely acclaimed for his dedication to humankind.

His good work and dedication to community is evidenced by the widespread recognition bestowed upon him by: Center of Leadership Development, Entrepreneurship Award 2005; Indiana State Museum Project, Addy Award 2005; Christian Service Charities, Board of Directors, 1999–2005, Achievement and Recognition; Addy Awards for Hoosier Lottery Commercials; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Aids Foundation, Dollars For Scholars; Indiana Black Expo; Circle City Classic, Indy Parks; Larry Conrad Vision Award, Indianapolis Downtown Inc.; United Way of America, Excellence Award; Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award; Achievement Award United Way of America and Office of Personnel Management; Achievement Award United States Postal Service; and Honorable Discharge United States Army 1974.

Rodney is being celebrated by the Indiana History Center on July 14. His honors are noteworthy and deserving of acclaim.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress, we salute you Rodney Stepp and we wish you God-speed.

COMMENDING SERBIAN PRESIDENT BORIS TADIC ON JOINING IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SREBRENICA MASSACRE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Serbian President Boris Tadic for the courage and humility he displayed by attending the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre.

Although time has yet to fully heal the wounds of hatred borne in war, President Tadic's actions stand out as a crucial first step in the process of peace. His attendance at the Srebrenica commemoration was a strong show of statesmanship and a demonstration of his firm commitment to reconciliation in that still unsettled region.

President Tadic's attendance marked the first time any Serbian representative attended the commemoration of the Srebrenica massacre. His visit to Srebrenica is an important outreach to the Bosnian people and an appropriate homage to the thousands of victims who were brutally murdered. President Tadic's presence also demonstrated Serbia's renewed commitment to cooperation and democracy and its rebuttal of nationalism and xenophobia. His attendance was also marked by his fellow democratic politicians in the Serbian Parliament in Belgrade who held a moment of silence for the victims of Srebrenica.

The Srebrenica commemoration was not the first time President Tadic made a bold statement underscoring his desire to achieve reconciliation. Eight months ago, he personally apologized to the Bosnian people for any crimes committed in the name of Serbia or the Serbian people when he visited Bosnia.

Tragically, despite President Tadic's firm leadership, dedication, and example, many Serbs still refuse to acknowledge the Srebrenica massacre; making his visit perhaps even more momentous. These actions, noble in their intent are not without dissent and protest back home in Serbia. Serbia's ultra-nationalist party, the Serbian Radical Party boycotted the Srebrenica commemoration, and even protested the moment of silence for the victims, as well as criticized President Tadic's attendance and actions.

Such intense divisions within Serbia between nationalists and democratic reformers, unthinkable a few years ago, only serve to underscore that thanks to the leadership of President Tadic, and other like-minded Serbs, Serbia is ready to face the war crimes of the past and condemn the heinous and brutal extermination of Bosnian males in Srebrenica 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I believe President Tadic's actions should be a sign to the world and the Bosnians alike that there is a profound difference between Serbia's citizens and Serbian war criminals; and I know that President Tadic is firmly committed to bringing those responsible for war crimes, especially those responsible for the Srebrenica massacre, including General Ratko Mladic, to justice before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague where they will be tried for their crimes against humanity.

I believe that President Tadic deserves the United States' respect and support as a democratic and reformist leader in a historically unstable region. He has fought for democracy and equality against the tide of nationalistic fervor unleashed by former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, and in many ways his actions speak loudly of his leadership and bravery. He is leading his country in a bold, new direction of cooperation with the West and is diligently working to ensure Serbia's integration into the European Union and NATO, as well as partner with the United States. President Tadic represents the future of Serbia and the Balkans and we should support him in his struggles and endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join with me to commend his leadership, applaud his courage, and renew our commitment to peace and stability in the Balkans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday evening, July 11, 2005, due to United Airlines flight 950 experiencing mechanical problems. My plane was forced to return to San Francisco International Airport, requiring me to travel on a later flight.

I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted had I been present:

On rollcall vote No. 363 I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 364 I would have voted "yea."

FOSTERING ADOPTION TO FURTHER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with my colleagues, Mrs. BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. SNYDER of Arkansas, and Mr. BOUSTANY of Louisiana, in introducing legislation that corrects an inequity in our Nation's higher education laws.

The foster care system in our country is not perfect. However, for all its flaws, it does provide some very genuine benefits. For example, those youth who graduate high school while still in foster care are afforded every opportunity to attend college and receive full federal financial aid benefits.

Unfortunately, those who are fortunate enough to be adopted into loving homes as teenagers are not given this same consideration. Under current law, children who are adopted and thus leave the foster care system are not considered "independent students" and are therefore considered for financial aid based on the income of the adoptive family. This is a barrier for families looking to adopt older children, but may not have saved for college—and it should be changed.

This important legislation would adjust the definition of "independent student" to include foster care youth who are adopted from the

foster care system after their 13th birthday. Accordingly, when the adopted children apply for federal financial aid, they will not be penalized because eligibility would be determined by the adopted student's ability to pay, not the ability of his parents to do so.

Statistics show that older children who are adopted from the foster care system are more likely to attend college, have stable lives and have a permanent family. Conversely, of those who "aged-out" of foster care over three years: Only 54% had earned a high school diploma; Only 14.5% had graduated from a four-year college; and Between 25–44% had experienced homelessness.

It is estimated that approximately 20,000 youth "age out" of the foster care system each year and, of that number, nearly 30% are incarcerated in the first year. Currently, there are 523,000 children in foster care and nearly half of those children are over the age of ten.

These statistics show that when given the opportunity to move into a loving home, those who are still in the system are more likely to be successful. Making this minor change to current law can do so much to change the lives of these youngsters and the families looking to adopt them. But when these teenagers are forced to choose between adoption and federal financial aid to attend college, the odds are against them.

Families who adopt teenagers are remarkable. But these adoptions are rare. This legislation is designed not only to create greater access to college for those who are adopted but also to encourage adoption of older children by creating an incentive—not a barrier—to parents looking to add to their family by adopting a child out of the foster care system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me and my colleagues in supporting and enacting this common sense, bipartisan legislation.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House of Representatives for its work on H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. Simply put, this bill solves the problem of rogue predatory lenders and goes after high-cost abusive lenders who seek to take advantage of the young men and women dutifully serving in our military. Our servicemen and women deserve the protection of Congress not only on the battlefield but right here at home. In times of war it is all too often that our military personnel find themselves in stressful financial situations and hardships, through no fault of their own, due to unforeseen call-ups. They are forced to leave good paying jobs for significantly less money and still provide for their families. This is an incredibly difficult task, like sticking a circle through a square. And what do rogue predatory lenders want to do, Mr. Speaker? They seek to prey on these individuals with inappropriate sales and impositions such as garnishing military wages, collection calls to a service member's chain of command, and deceptive marketing. Congress has the responsi-

bility to crack down on unscrupulous lenders who use deceptive financial practices to make a quick buck off of our uniformed service members. H.R. 458 does that, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague from Illinois, Mr. RAHM EMANUEL said, it is time to end a culture on military bases that too often favors financial interests over the interests of our troops, their families, and their futures. I urge our colleagues in the Senate to give this legislation a vote and continue on with this body's efforts to protect our service men and women.

CELEBRATING MS. ODIE RICH

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to recognize a remarkable woman and Pickett County, Tennessee's oldest known living resident.

Ms. Odie (Riley) Rich was born on December 10, 1901 in Pickett County, where she has lived all her life. Ms. Rich is the daughter of the late William and Irene Riley.

Ms. Odie married A.L. Rich on December 23, 1923 when she was 22-years-old. When asked by her granddaughter, Paula Perry, in the local newspaper, where her wedding dress came from, Ms. Rich replied "I made it myself."

Mr. and Mrs. Rich raised several children, Dorthena Price, Paul Rich (deceased), Eladean Tompkins, Jack Rich, Morris Rich, Odell Rich, and Carolyn Long. She has 20 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Ms. Odie is a wonderful witness to history and the times. She remembers when women first got the right to vote, having voted for the first time herself in 1921. The first vehicle her and her husband owned was a 1941 Chevy truck. Up until then, they traveled by horse or mule. When asked how she rode with a dress on, she commented "Why, side saddle of course!" However, she never learned to drive an automobile. She remarked that if she ever learned that she would have been a speed demon.

Today, Ms. Rich still lives on the old home place and loves to do gardening and canning. Ms. Rich is an endearing character that has provided insight into the past all the while bringing joy and happiness to her loved ones and neighbors. May God continue to bless Ms. Odie Rich.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005, I was in my district participating in the first meeting of the New Jersey Flood Mitigation Task Force. This Task Force is working to help prevent the devastating flooding that occurred for a number of my constituents earlier this year. Due to the schedule, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 363 "aye" and rollcall No. 364 "aye."